BATMAN LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT

185
JAN 2005

McCARTHY
CASTILLO
RAMOS

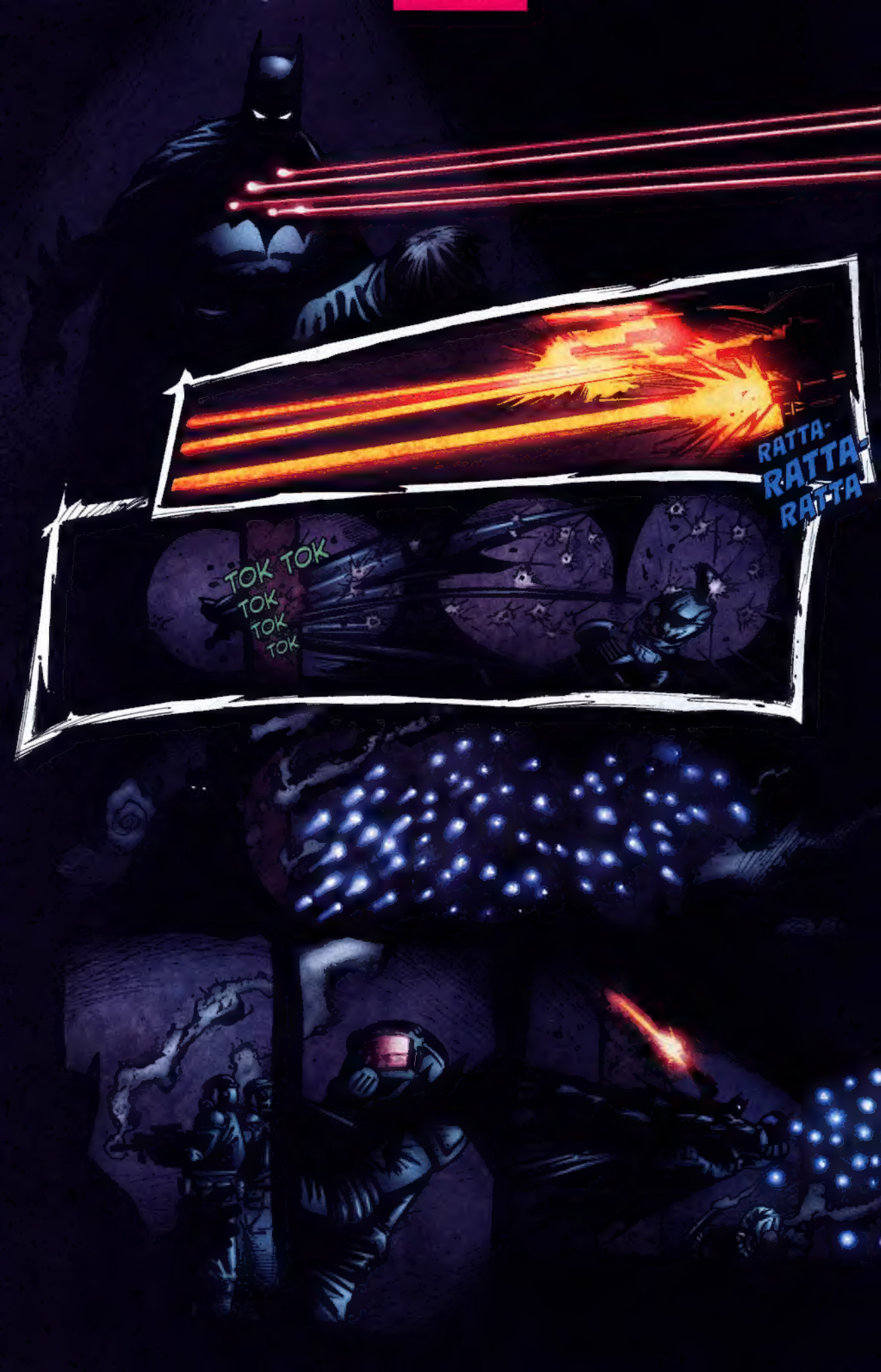
RiDdLe mE ThaT
Part 1 of 5

DIRECT SALES
18511
7 61941 20007 1
$2.50 US $3.85 CAN
dccomics.com

GREAT STUFF
PAR

WAM

DOCTOR!
DR. DALLAWAY. IT'S OVER. YOU'RE SAFE...
...NOW.
SLAM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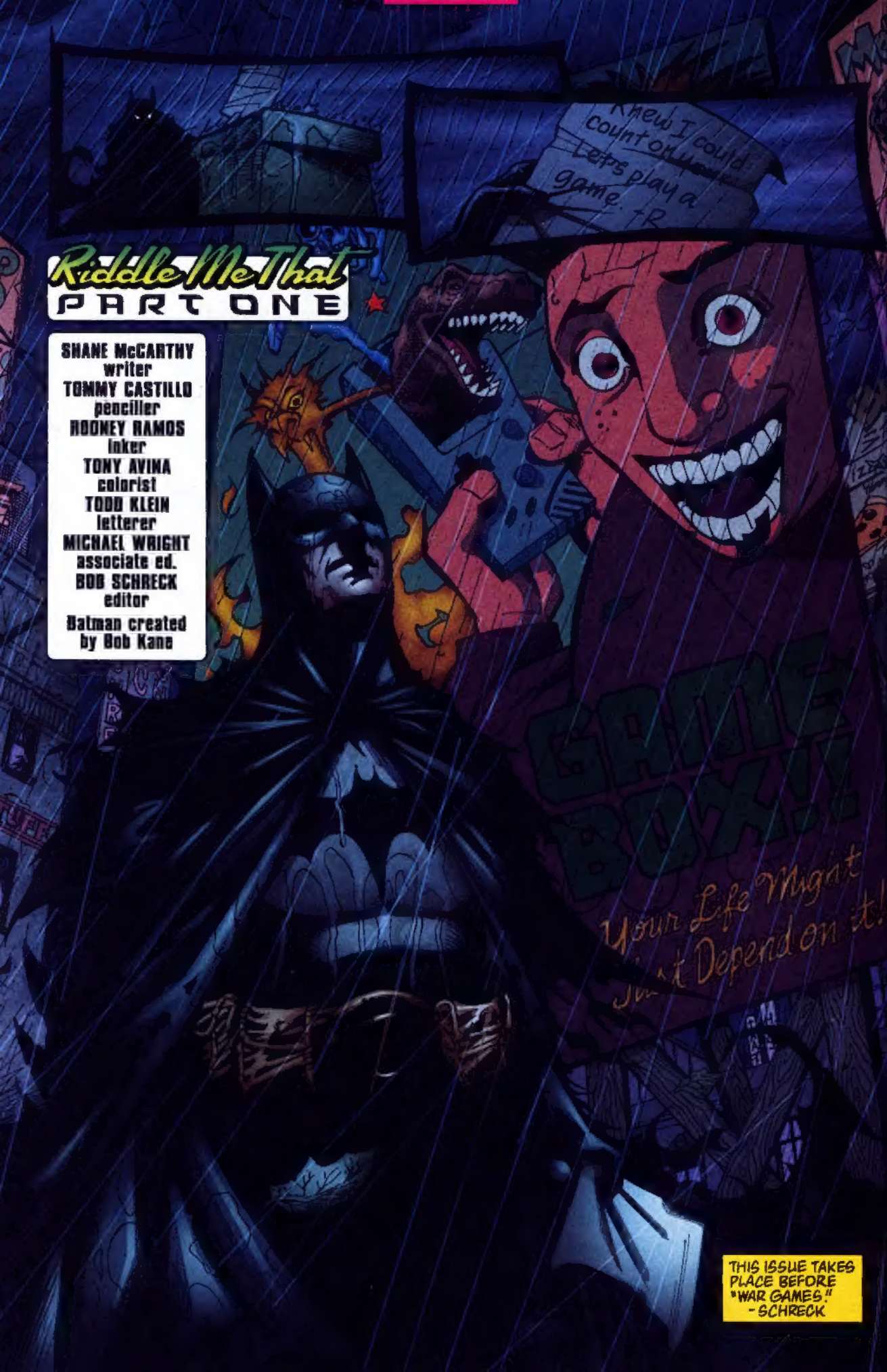

Riddle Me That
PART ONE

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editor
Batman created
by Bob Kane

THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE BEFORE "WAR GAMES." -SCHRECK

RIDDLER.
ALTHOUGH HE GAVE US NO PRIOR INDICATION, IT'S OBVIOUS NOW HE WAS BEHIND THE DOCTOR'S KIDNAPPING.
THIS ISN'T LIKE HIM, SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT.
I SEE. AND WHAT, YOU FELT YOU SHOULD WARN ME?
IF YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED, COMMISSIONER, YOU SHOULD BE.
WHAT WOULD THE RIDDLER WANT WITH DR. DALLAWAY?
ANY NUMBER OF THINGS. THE DOCTOR'S RESEARCH AND ABILITIES MAKE HIM A THREAT ON SEVERAL LEVELS.
AT THIS POINT IN THE RIDDLER'S GAME, IT'S TOO EARLY TO TELL.
SOME GAME.
A CASINO CHIP AND A RIDDLE. "THE MAKER DOESN'T WANT IT, THE BUYER DOESN'T USE IT, AND THE USER DOESN'T SEE IT."
A COFFIN. WHILE THE CHIP, BLACK AND YELLOW, IS REFERRED TO BY THE CASINO AS A "TIGER."
YOU'VE LOST ME.
TIGER. COFFIN. NATHANIEL "TIGER" KOUGHUN. HE'S A HIGHLY RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN, OLD SCHOOL, OLD MONEY.
tap tap tap
IT'S WHERE I'M HEADED. I'VE DONE WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO.
AH, LISTEN, I NEED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT SOMETHING. THERE'S SOMEONE --

COMMISSIONER?
HI, THEY HAD ME WAITING DOWNSTAIRS, FEEDING ME COFFEE AND SOMETHING YOU THINK IS FOOD.
I APPRECIATE THE NEED FOR FOLLOWING PROTOCOL, BUT I'D JUST AS SOON GET...
...STARTED.
AH. BATMAN, THIS IS KARA HARRIS. A REPORTER FROM METROPOLIS. MS. HARRIS, THIS--
WELL, LOOK AT YOU! INCREDIBLE! AND YOU CAN DROP THE "MS.", COMMISSIONER.
MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M BACK IN FOURTH GRADE.
SO THIS IS MY BIG ASSIGNMENT IN THE FLESH?
ASSIGNMENT?
CITY HALL HAS REQUESTED--
DEMANDED.
--THAT MS....THAT KARA HERE IS TO BE GIVEN FULL COOPERATION IN DOING AN ARTICLE ON YOU.
EXCUSE ME, AKINS. YOU ALLOWED THIS?!

WELL, MORE SPECIFICALLY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S APPARENT NEED OF YOU, BUT LET'S NOT SPLIT HAIRS.
THE WISHES OF CITY HALL, OR ITS CRONIES, DON'T CONCERN ME.
YES, WELL, I'M SURE THEY FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU.
I GREW UP IN GOTHAM, YOU KNOW? I KEEP CLOSE TABS ON IT.
I'M MORE THAN INTERESTED IN DISCOVERING MORE ABOUT YOU, ACTUALLY TRY ANYTHING ABOUT YOU.
YOU GREW UP IN GOTHAM. YOU HAVE FAMILY HERE?
A SISTER.
THEN I SUGGEST YOU USE YOUR TIME MORE EFFECTIVELY. SPEND IT WITH HER.
I DON'T THINK SO. AS AMAZING AS IT MIGHT SEEM, CONVERSATIONS WITH HER ARE FAR MORE CONFRONTATIONAL THAN WITH YOU.
NO DICE. I'M STAYING.
DON'T BE NAIVE.
OR WHAT, EXACTLY?
THE RIDDLER IS POSING A SERIOUS THREAT. THIS WILL HAVE TO WAIT, KARA. I'M SORRY...

THE RIDDLER? COME ON. I READ ABOUT HIM WHEN NEWSTIME DID THEIR CRIMINAL MASTERMIND EXPOSÉ. HE MADE THEIR "MOST PATHETIC" LIST, DIDN'T HE?
THINGS CHANGE.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
BATMAN, WAIT... WHAT ABOUT NATHANIEL KOUGHUN?
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
TIGER KOUGHUN? THE BUSINESSMAN? WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?
DROP IT, KARA.
YOU'VE CROSSED THE LINE HERE TONIGHT, AKINS.
AND AS FOR YOU, HARRIS, METROPOLIS'S FAVORITE SON MAY HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR REPORTERS, I DON'T. STAY AWAY.
OKAY, OKAY. I GET THE MESSAGE...
I KNOW WHEN I'M BEAT.

BRRT BRRRT
BRRRT BRRR
HELLO?
AH, HARRISON, SO GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU. I WAS BEGINNING TO BELIEVE YOU WOULD NEVER RETURN MY--
YES, YES OF COURSE... NO I... NO, QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE.
IF YOU RECALL, I HAPPEN TO BE VERY AWARE OF HOW BUSY ONE CAN GET--
I'M SORRY? YES, YES I HAVE BEEN CALLING HIM, ALSO...

NO, I ASSURE YOU I'M "PESTERING" NO ONE. I SIMPLY--
HARRISON, IF YOU REMEMBER RIGHTLY, I WAS ONCE A MAJOR PART OF--
YES. YES, I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY. THANK YOU.

MOORE
I APOLOGIZE FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR EVENING...
...HOWEVER, IT SEEMS SOMEONE WAS QUITE ADAMANT THAT I BE HERE.
WH-WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!
THE RIDDLER, MR. KOUGHUN.

THE RIDDLER?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA AS TO WHY THE RIDDLER WOULD NAME YOU IN ONE OF HIS CLUES?
NO. OF COURSE NOT. I WOULDN'T HAVE THE FAINTEST.
LISTEN, CAN YOU... CAN YOU KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN? I'D REALLY PREFER MY WIFE DIDN'T HEAR US SPEAKING...SHE'S... RESTING.
INTERESTING PIECE.
IT'S A RENOIR. COST ME A SMALL FORTUNE.
THEN YOU WASTED YOUR MONEY.
IT'S A FAKE.

HELLO, CYNTHIA, IT'S GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU, ALSO.
OF COURSE I'VE BEEN WELL, AND YOU?
YES, YES I HEARD THAT. I--
WAIT!
I MUST TALK WITH YOU, PLEASE.
WHAT YOU DID JUST NOW... WELL, IT ISN'T NORMAL.

THE FIRST CROSSWORD WAS DIFFICULT, YET ORDINARY, BUT THIS...
I DEVISED THIS, AS A TEST. SIGNIFICANTLY MORE CHALLENGING.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE RUSE...
I WAS... AM A PROFESSOR. I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO TEST YOU FURTHER, TO SEE THE FULL EXTENT OF YOUR TALENTS.
PLEASE, I PROMISE YOU, I MEAN YOU NO HARM WHATSOEVER.
MY NAME IS JARROD BUTTERY. PROFESSOR JARROD BUTTERY.
I...UH... I'M EDDIE...EDDIE NI... ER... EDDIE NASHTON.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, EDWARD.

THE DAUGHTERS OF CATULLE MENDES.
IN THE ORIGINAL, THE GIRL ON THE RIGHT IS MERELY RESTING ON THE PIANO. HERE SHE'S POINTING TO THE NOTES.
SOMETHING'S WRITTEN HERE... NUMBERS.
LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE, NO DOUBT. A LOCATION.
MMN. THE OLD HYDRO PLANT ON BLAKE.
YOU KNOW THE CITY'S LONGITUDES AND LATITUDES BY HEART?!
OF COURSE.
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN HOW THIS GOT HERE?
HE WAS HERE. THE RIDDLER.

I'M SORRY...
HE...HE CAME HERE AND... THREATENED ME... HE SAID HE'D KILL ME. HE WANTED IT LEFT FOR YOU TO FIND.
AND THAT WAS IT?
YES... YES, THAT WAS IT.
SAMIFF
HAVE YOU RECENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANY CHEMICALS, MR. KOUGHUN? PESTICIDES. ANYTHING USED ON INSECTS?
WHAT...? NO...

THE RIDDLER AND HIS MEN, DID THEY SMELL...ODD?
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
THERE'S A FAINT SMELL IN THE AIR, A CHEMICAL. ONE THAT SMELLS LIKE MUSHROOMS.
TRI-HYDROXYOCTANE. THE RIDDLER MUST HAVE PICKED IT UP IN HIS TRAVELS, BUT FOR IT TO BE THIS CONCENTRATED...
THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE...
SLAM

KNOCK KNOCK

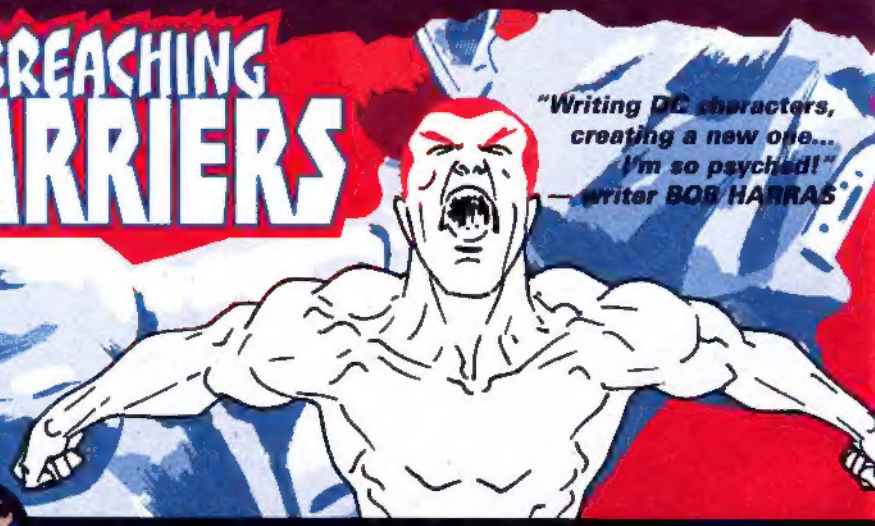
MR. KOUGHUN?
HI, MY NAME IS KARA HARRIS, I'M A REPORTER...
YES?
WAIT! MR. KOUGHON, IT'S OKAY, I CAN KEEP YOU OUT OF THE PAPERS, I PROMISE.

PEOPLE ARE MENTIONING YOUR NAME, MR. KOUGHUN...
ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU TELL ME EVERYTHING THE BATMAN HAD TO SAY...
...WORD FOR WORD.

JB CHEM

RIDDLER.
TO BE CONTINUED...

BREACHING BARRIERS



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IN DEMAND

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This Month's Cover by...
SEAN PHILLIPS

Next Month in...

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #186

Chapter two of "Riddle Me That" finds Batman face to face with the new and improved Riddler! By McCarthy, Castillo and Ramos.

BREACH #1 (January, 2005):

Don't expect a typical origin story for the title character of this new ongoing series – with legendary runs editing *X-Men* and writing *Avengers* to his credit, writer **Bob Harras** knows how to break through all storytelling barriers! Joined by BATGIRL: YEAR ONE artist **Marcos Martin**, Bob introduces readers to Major Tim Porter, a man who may be the world's only hope…or the herald of its destruction! The 30-page first issue also offers a sneak peek at what will unfold throughout a year that involves Kobra, the League of Assassins and the JLA, and culminates with – uh-uh, sorry. We'll contain ourselves regarding issue #12's major surprise for now!

The Hot List THIS WEEK

FIRESTORM #7

The Nuclear Man meets DC's most brutal hero in a crossover that starts here and concludes in this week's BLOODHOUND #5! When a villain takes Firestorm's incredible power and turns it against Bloodhound, what happens next won't be pretty.

GOTHAM CENTRAL #25

Fresh off the events of "War Games," Batman has much to answer for as far as the GCPD is concerned! Akins is furious with the masked vigilante, and he's drawing a line that will change the relationship between Batman and the police!

IDENTITY CRISIS #6 (of 7)

The thrill-packed miniseries by Brad Meltzer, Rags Morales and Michael Bair nears its unbelievable finale! From the very start, he's been on the case and sifting through clues. He's the World's Greatest Detective. Now it's time for Batman to prove it.

BOUND BY BLOOD

We've always believed Jason Blood was a man possessed by Etrigan the Demon, but **John Byrne** (DOOM PATROL) and **Will Pfeifer** (AQUAMAN) are collaborating on a new monthly series that reveals a whole lot more about this "blood bond" than any of us ever realized. John plots and pencils, while Will scripts BLOOD OF THE DEMON, and we think it's bound to conjure up a huge reaction when it spills out into comics shops everywhere next March!

RELIVING THE (DARK) KNIGHTLIFE

It's been far too long since **Andy Helfer** put THE SHADOW in the limelight and breathed life into DEADMAN years ago, so we're thrilled that he's returning to monthly comics writing with a new Batman maxiseries this spring. Andy is collaborating with one of his many editorial discoveries, Eisner Award-winning artist **Tan Eng Huat** (DOOM PATROL), and focusing on Batman in his most formative stages. We also hear the 12-issue series is so packed with incident and treachery, there will be little doubt that Bruce Wayne could have become anything but the World's Greatest Detective, and the Dark Knight of the DC Universe! Watch for it in April!

DISPENSING JUSTICE

JUSTICE is served…or will be in 2005, but let's hope it won't be *too* swift. Especially since this 12-issue bimonthly maxiseries – which features the classic Justice League in mortal combat with Lex Luthor, Brainiac, and the most powerful array of super-criminals ever assembled – is masterminded by fan favorite **Alex Ross**! And with Alex writing the series with *Universe X* co-scribe **Jim Krueger**, plus providing fully painted artwork over the pencils of **Dougie Braithwaite**…well, let's just say we can't wait to *mete* it!

GREEN-LIGHTING THE NEW GREEN LANTERN

With Hal Jordan reclaiming his emerald power ring in REBIRTH, writer **Geoff Johns** and artist **Carlos Pacheco** (SUPERMAN/BATMAN) take the next step this May – in an all-new GREEN LANTERN monthly! While establishing Hal as a beacon of light and hope in the DCU, Geoff and Carlos will introduce a new supporting core (or Corps?) of characters, and reacquaint our hero with several very familiar archenemies. We're confident this GREEN LANTERN will be in the greatest hands possible – yours!

– your Noie in 1700

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